

**PACE**

May 14, 2003

Paper,
Allied-Industrial,
Chemical &
Energy Workers
International
Union
AFL-CIO, CLC

Boyd Young
International President

Dear Representative:

On behalf of PACE International Union, I am writing to ask you to support H.R. 1904, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act.

PACE International Union (Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers), represents more than 300,000 workers in the United States, including the men and women employed in the paper industry.

We support this bill because it fixes a national forest management system that all sides agree is broken. As we learned last year when we all watched in horror as forest fires ravaged the West, we need a plan that allows the U.S. Forest Service to thin the forests to help ensure that the next round of inevitable forest fires will be significantly less devastating. We believe that this bill, when combined with changes already approved by Congress in the 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act, will make common sense changes to a litigious system that does more harm than good.

We also support the bill because it provides benefits to forests in the South, Midwest and East that face a larger problem from bugs and disease. We believe that language in the bill, including the monies for research, gives the Forest Service the flexibility it needs to fight infestation problems that are as much a threat to forests in these regions and fires are in the West.

Our government leaders must adequately address the very real forest health crisis that continues to threaten millions of acres of our national forests and rural communities. Careful, but active, forest management, as set forth in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act is the best way to ensure that these national treasures are truly protected.

Please support H.R. 1904 when the House votes on it later this week. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Boyd Young

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